

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 11-18, 20-22, 27-32 and 49-50 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 17 are amended; and Claims 49 and 50 are added by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 1 and 17, and new Claims 49 and 50 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to because of a minor informality. In addition, Claims 1-2, 4-6, 11-18, 20-22 and 27-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over www.bellagio.com (hereinafter, “Bellagio”) in view of www.Westwardho.com (hereinafter, “Westwardho”).

In the outstanding Official Action, Figs. 6-26 were objected to as “too dark.” In response, new Figs. 6-26 are attached herewith, which include the same features as depicted in original Figs. 6-26. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to these figures be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 11-18, 20-22 and 27-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Bellagio in view of Westwardho. Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1 and 17 state novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, the reservation method, comprising:

displaying, ***in a single window***, data in a calendar section configured to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation, an inventory information section configured to indicate a room available for reservation, and a reservation information section ***configured to receive credit card payment information input by a user***; and
automatically updating the inventory information section to indicate the room available for reservation when

¹ e.g., specification, Figs. 6-15.

consecutive dates are selected in the calendar section and automatically updating the calendar section to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation when the room is selected.

Amended Claim 17 recites substantially similar features, but is directed to an alternative embodiment of the invention. Therefore, the arguments presented below are also applicable to each of amended independent Claims 1 and 17.

As depicted in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 6, a calendar section (602), an inventory section (604) and ***a reservation information section configured to receive credit card payment information input by a user*** (636) are displayed ***in a single window***. Such a configuration allows a user to select dates and inventory and also input payment information so as to complete hotel reservation on a single screen.

Turning to the applied primary reference, Bellagio depicts an Internet reservation site having a calendar section, inventory section and a summary section. Once the user makes a selection from each of the calendar section and inventory section of the interface, they must then click on the “continue” link in order to proceed to a different window to input credit card information and complete the reservation request.

Thus, Bellagio fails to teach or suggest displaying, ***in a single window***, data in the calendar section..., an inventory section...and ***a reservation information section configured to receive credit card payment information input by a user***, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 17.

The outstanding Official Action states that the Bellagio reference “clearly teaches the calendar section, inventory information section and the reservation section all in one window,” citing p. 3. The outstanding Official Action further notes that “the entry of a ‘promo or group code’ constitutes payment information as it clearly impacts and relates to

payment by the user.”² However, as noted above, independent Claim 1 is amended to clearly recite that the reservation information section is ***configured to receive credit card payment information input by a user.***

In contrast, and as admitted in the outstanding Official Action, Bellagio simply describes the ability to enter a promo or group code which may impact payment by the user, but fails to teach or suggest ***receiving credit card payment information input by a user***, as recited in the pending independent Claims. As discussed above, the user must select the “Continue” link, and is forwarded to another screen before he/she enters payment information to complete the reservation. Alternatively, the presently claimed interface allows a user to select available dates, select rooms from available inventory, and enter payment information to complete a reservation using ***a single window***.

Westwardho, the secondary reference, depicts an Internet reservation user interface including an amenity section, allowing the user to select specific amenities for reservation, and a calendar section that displays available nights and prices based on inputs to the amenities section. The user first enters specific amenity information, then selects the button labeled “Price Vacation” before they are prompted to enter payment information to complete the reservation request, similar to Bellagio, as discussed above.

Westwardho, however, fails to teach or suggest “displaying ***in a single window*** data in the calendar section...an inventory information section...and ***a reservation information section configured to receive credit card payment information input by user***,” as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 17. In contrast, as discussed above, Westwardho requires a user to select the “Price Vacation” button before moving the user to a new window at which time they can input payment information (e.g. credit card information) and complete the reservation.

² Outstanding Official Action, pp. 4-5.

Thus, neither Bellagio nor Westwardho teaches or suggests “displaying, *in a single window*, data in the calendar section configured to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation, an inventory information section configured to indicate a room available for reservation, *and a reservation information section configured to receive credit card payment information input by a user*, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 17.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn. As Claims 2, 4-6, 11-16, 18, 20-22 and 27-32 depend from amended independent Claims 1 and 17, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims also patentably define over Bellagio and/or Westwardho.

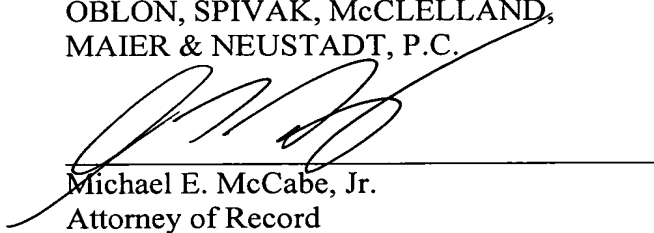
Claims 49 and 50, which depend from amended independent Claims 1 and 17, respectively, are added by the present amendment. New Claims 49 and 50 relate to a feature of displaying the price of a room available for reservation. As differentiated above, neither Bellagio or Westwardho teach or suggest “displaying, *in a single window*, data in the calendar section configured to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation, an inventory information section configured to indicate a room available for reservation, *and a reservation information section configured to receive credit card payment information input by a user.*” Thus, the references also fail to teach or suggest, displaying in the single window, information relating to the price of a room available for reservation, in addition to the information displayed in the single window, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 17.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new dependent Claims 49 and 50 patentably define over the cited references, at least by virtue of dependency on independent Claims 1 and 17, as discussed above.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-2, 4-6, 11-18, 20-22, 27-32 and 49-50 patentably define over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Michael E. McCabe, Jr.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 37,182

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
ATH/rac

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include replacement drawings for Figs. 6-26. These sheets, including Figs. 6-26, replace the original sheets including Figs. 6-26.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheets